

We claim:

1. A method of incrementing a telecommunication customer's prepaid account with a prepaid administration system comprising the steps of:
 - creating data for a scratch card at a recharge card management system by
5 service provider or reseller users; - said data comprising a scratch number and reseller account identification data for identifying a reseller that manages and sells the card; - said management system maintained by a service provider; - said management system accessible only by authorized service provider or
10 reseller users; - said management system for storing users' profile data in its database; - said reseller users limited to accessing card information with their account identification information; - said reseller card identification information for identifying a reseller and
15 distributors below said reseller in said reseller's hierarchy; - selling said card to a customer and activating said data for said card in said database; - said customer calling a prepaid administration system to transfer the value of the scratch card to the customer's account.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
said prepaid administration system checking data received from said customer against data in a database of said recharge card management system to verify an authorization for incrementing said customer's prepaid account.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of calling the prepaid
25 administration system comprises the step of:
identifying the customer through a mobile identification number or a calling line identification number and the scratch number of said card.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said users' profile contains data
identifying a user name, a user password, a user account identification, and a user
30 identification.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein a reseller can have multiple account identifications for distributors in a reseller's hierarchy.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein a user can input scratch card manufacturing data for the file at the recharge card management system.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said manufacturing order file includes scratch card information, manufacturer name, reseller name, account identification and scratch number.

5 8. The method of claim 1 wherein a reseller user enters data for said scratch card in the card database of the recharge card management system, said data comprising an account identification of said reseller.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said account identification of said reseller or an account identification of a distributor user is arranged in a hierarchy so that distributors can access data only for themselves or distributors further down
10 in a hierarchy of distributors and a reseller user can access data for all distributors below the reseller in said hierarchy.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein a reseller or distributor user can modify the card status during inventory and distribution.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the data in the card database identifies
15 the reseller and includes the account number of the reseller.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
a reseller selling a card to a distributor; and
activating said card with an account number of the distributor.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
20 marking the card as used after the customer's account has been incremented.

14. Apparatus for controlling incrementing of a telecommunication customer's prepaid account with a prepaid administration system comprising:
a recharge card management system for creating data for a scratch card by
25 service provider or reseller users; and
a prepaid administration system responsive to a call from said customer calling to transfer the value of the scratch card to the customer's account;
said data comprising a scratch number and reseller account identification data for identifying a reseller that manages and sells the card;
30 said management system maintained by a service provider;
said management system accessible only by authorized service provider or reseller users;
said management system further for storing users' profile data in its database;

said reseller users limited to accessing card information with their account identification;

said reseller card identification information for identifying a reseller and distributors below said reseller in said reseller's hierarchy;

5 responsive to selling said card to a customer, said card management system activating said data for said card in said database.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said prepaid administration system checks data received from said customer against data in a database of said recharge card management system to verify an authorization for incrementing said
10 customer's prepaid account.

16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said recharge card management system is responsive to input from a user for creating manufacturing data for a database of said recharge card management system.

17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein a reseller user inputs data for said
15 scratch card in a database of the recharge card management system, said data comprising an account identification of said reseller.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein said account identification of said reseller or an account identification of a distributor user is arranged in a hierarchy so that distributors can access data only for themselves or distributors further down
20 in a hierarchy of distributors and a reseller user can access data for all distributors below the reseller in said hierarchy.